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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Costa, *et al.*

U.S. Natl. Phase of: PCT/EP2004/002577

Intl. Filing Date: March 12, 2004

Filed: herewith

Appl. No.: to be assigned

For: **High Homogeneity Silica Glass Prepared
through a Sol-Gel Procedure**

10/549680

Art Unit: to be assigned

Examiner: to be assigned

Atty. Dkt.: 7601/84392

**General Authorization for Petition for
Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3)**

Commissioner of Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, MS PCT
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Applicants hereby request under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a)(3) by this general authorization that any concurrent or future reply submitted by Applicants to the United States Patent and Trademark Office for the above-identified patent application requiring a petition for an extension of time under §1.136(a) for its timely submission be treated as incorporating therein a petition for an extension of time for the appropriate length of time.

If Applicants do not timely pay for any extension fee(s) pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) which may become due for this application under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 by check, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fee(s), and any additional fees which may be required in this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17 during its entire pendency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1135 under Order No. 7601/84392.

Respectfully submitted,

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

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